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DP/PROJECTS/7544

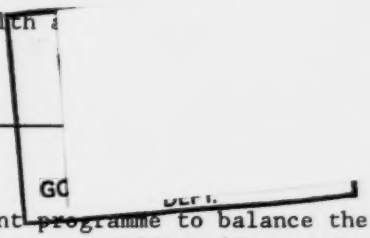
ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF ARGENTINA

IPF:(1987-91) $11 090 000

(ARG/93/038) - Support to the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Health Infrastructure

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	24 November 1993
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Health a
Government cost sharing:	$ 6 661 600
Total UNDP budget:	$ 6 661 600



Project background

In 1989, the Government initiated a far-reaching adjustment programme to balance the budget, deregulate and privatize the economy, slim the public sector and liberalize trade. The reform process brought favourable results, with reduced public sector deficits and much lower inflation. However, with attention concentrated on critical economic issues, necessary actions on the social sector were given a lower priority. Income distribution remains skewed, both between different social groups and different regions. The private sector is slow to take off, and formal employment is inaccessible to the part of the labour force that have been laid-off as a consequence of the adjustment programme.

Parallel to this least temporary deterioration in living standards for large segments of the population, important demographic changes are taking place in Argentina resulting in higher population growth rates in the provincial capitals compared with Buenos Aires which put further strain on the social infrastructure in these cities. Furthermore, the public health infrastructure in the provinces has been left to deteriorate over many years to the extent that the average age of provincial hospitals is 82 years with no concerted strategy for updating neither of premises, medical equipment nor human resources.

This together with the government-induced drive towards decentralization of public functions from the central to the provincial and the municipal levels has led the Government of Argentina to embark on a Programme towards the Rehabilitation of Public Health Infrastructure which will increase both the degree of coverage and the quality of service delivery at the provincial level through the modernization of provincial hospitals and health centres.

This Programme has two principal areas of intervention which are: (i) to construct and

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[1] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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equip four provincial hospitals as well as 40 health centres; and (ii) strengthen institutionally the Secretariat of Health, particularly through the preparation of the Federal Health Plan and the improvement of health services at the provincial level. The Programme is being financed partly from an IDB-loan of (US)$40 million which complements central and provincial resources to provide the (US)$100 million foreseen as the cost of the rehabilitation of the infrastructure for provincial hospitals and health centres as well as the institutional and human resource upgrading.

Prior UNDP assistance has been provided under the project (ARG/86/003) Development of the National Health System, to design and supervise the infrastructure part of the Programme which is now underway under the present approval.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the process of modernization of the public health system, particularly in the aspects related to the strengthening of public health service delivery capacity at the provincial level.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) establish technical inputs towards the design, monitoring, supervision and control of the construction and equipment of hospitals and health centres in four provinces: (b) provide technical support to the preparation of the federal health plan and plans for the modernization of decentralized health service delivery including the upgrading of the human resource base through the public, provincial health system; and (c) assist in the design and implementation of information systems to support the implementation of the Programme.

Project activities will include: (a) putting in operation and equipping fully four hospitals, 40 health centres in the peri-urban areas of four provincial capitals; and (b) implementing a training programme to ensure that technical personnel at all levels are prepared to provide the health delivery services from the mentioned hospitals and centres.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 1,456 work-months of national experts in the fields of health, administration and finance, management and evaluation of projects in the social area, informatics, hospital architecture and engineering, accounting and legal advisory; 357 work-months for administrative support; subcontracts for consulting forms for strengthening the administrative, legal and accounting areas of the Central Executing Unit; training in administrative control systems and software programmes as well as in-service training at the regional level aimed at professionals in the areas of preventive, mental primary and mother and child health care; non-expendable equipment; and miscellaneous and maintenance and costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	4 703 800
Subcontract	188 700
Training	475 000
Equipment	1 007 400
Miscellaneous	286 700
Total	6 661 600

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